

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MBFR V 00502 01 OF 02 121523Z

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ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ACDE-00 AECE-00 AEC-07 CIAE-00 EUR-12

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FM USDEL MBFR VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0766

SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY

INFO USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USNMR SHAPE

USCINCEUR

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 MBFR VIENNA 0502

MBFR NEGOTIATIONS

FROM US REP MBFR

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR NEGOTIATIONS: STATEMENT GIVEN BY THE NETHERLANDS

REP DE VOS AT THE DEC 12 ALLIED PRESS CONFERENCE

THERE FOLLOWS THE TEXT OF THE OPENING STATEMENT, GIVEN

BY THE ALLIED SPOKESMAN (NETHERLANDS REP DE VOS) AT

THE DEC 12 POST-PLENARY ALLIED PRESS CONFERENCE.

THE STATEMENT WAS APPROVED AT THE DEC 11 MEETING OF

THE AD HOC GROUP.

BEGIN TEXT

1. THIS PAST ROUND OF THE VIENNA NEGOTIATIONS HAS BEEN

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PAGE 02 MBFR V 00502 01 OF 02 121523Z

AN ACTIVE ONE, WITH SEVERAL PROPOSALS MADE BY BOTH SIDES.

WE CAN'T REPORT REAL PROGRESS YET, BUT MANIFEST EFFORT HAS BEEN PUT INTO THE ENTERPRISE BY BOTH SIDES.

2. FROM THE OUTSET OF THESE NEGOTIATIONS, THE WESTERN OBJECTIVE HAS BEEN TO REACH AGREEMENT ON MILITARILY SIGNIFICANT REDUCTIONS WHICH WOULD LEAD TO APPROXIMATE PARITY IN GROUND FORCES IN CENTRAL EUROPE. DURING THIS ROUND AND THE LAST, THE WEST HAS MADE A NUMBER OF IMPORTANT PROPOSALS DESIGNED TO CONTRIBUTE TO MAKING PROGRESS TOWARD THIS OBJECTIVE. ON THE OTHER HAND, EASTERN SUGGESTIONS MADE IN THIS ROUND HAVE BEEN LIMITED TO MEASURES WHICH WOULD NOT CONTRIBUTE TO CORRECTING THE PRESENT UNEQUAL RELATIONSHIP OF FORCES IN CENTRAL EUROPE.

3. ON THE ALLIED SIDE, WE CONCENTRATED DURING THIS ROUND ON THREE MAJOR ISSUES: THE QUESTION OF PHASING, OR WHO SHOULD REDUCE THEIR FORCES FIRST, THE QUESTION OF WHAT FORCES SHOULD BE COVERED UNDER AN AGREEMENT, AND THE QUESTION OF ACHIEVING THE GREATER CLARITY ON THE ACTUAL FACTS OF THE SITUATION THAT WE ARE NEGOTIATING ABOUT. WE MADE IMPORTANT PROPOSALS ON ALL THREE POINTS.

4. I CANNOT GO INTO DETAILS, BUT AS REGARDS THE FIRST SUBJECT, WHO SHOULD REDUCE FIRST, IN ORDER TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT EASTERN CONCERNS, THE WEST INTRODUCED A NUMBER OF PROPOSALS WHICH WE THINK CUMULATIVELY RESULT IN A COMPREHENSIVE AND WORKABLE APPROACH TO THE PROBLEM.

5. AS YOU KNOW, WE CONSIDER THAT IN A FIRST PHASE AGREEMENT, AGREEMENT SHOULD BE REACHED THAT THE GOAL OF THE REDUCTION PROCESS SHOULD BE APPROXIMATE PARITY IN GROUND FORCES AND THAT THERE SHOULD BE A SUBSTANTIAL US-SOVIET REDUCTION LEADING IN THAT DIRECTION BEFORE THE OTHER DIRECT PARTICIPANTS REDUCE THEIR FORCES IN A SECOND PHASE. IN OTHER WORDS, THE ALLIES WANT TO BE SURE THAT THE REDUCTION PROCESS IS GOING TO DEAL EFFECTIVELY WITH THE GROUND FORCE DISPARITIES IN THE AREA, WHERE THE EAST HAS ABOUT 150,000 MORE MEN AND 9,5000 MORE TANKS THAN WE DO.

6. IN OUR VIEW, IT IS HIGHLY JUSTIFIABLE THAT THE
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PAGE 03 MBFR V 00502 01 OF 02 121523Z

SUPERPOWERS, THE US AND THE USSR, SHOULD LEAD THE WAY IN REDUCTIONS. BUT WE HAVE OFFERED TO MAKE A NUMBER OF IMPORTANT COMMITMENTS ABOUT THE INCLUSION OF THE REMAINING DIRECT PARTICIPANTS IN FURTHER REDUCTIONS.

7. TO THIS END, WE HAVE PROPOSED A SERIES OF SPECIFIC AND CONCRETE COMMITMENTS TO ASSURE THE EAST FIRST, THAT, IF THERE IS A SATISFACTORY FIRST PHASE REDUCTION AGREEMENT,

SECOND PHASE REDUCTION NEGOTIATIONS WILL TAKE PLACE WITHIN A FIXED, REASONABLE PERIOD OF TIME THEREAFTER, AND SECOND, THAT ALL THE REMAINING NON-US WESTERN DIRECT PARTICIPANTS, EXCEPT LUXEMBOURG, WILL PARTICIPATE IN REDUCTIONS TO AN AGREED COMMON CEILING IN THE SECOND PHASE. WE HAVE ALSO INDICATED TO THE EAST THE OVERALL SCOPE OF REDUCTIONS TO BE TAKEN IN BOTH PHASES. THESE PROPOSALS SHOULD SATISFY THE EAST THAT A SECOND PHASE WOULD FOLLOW THE CONCLUSION OF A FIRST PHASE AGREEMENT, AND THAT REDUCTIONS BY ALL THE REMAINING WESTERN DIRECT PARTICIPANTS WOULD TAKE PLACE IN IT.

8. THE WARSAW PACT PARTICIPANTS HAVE NOT YET ACCEPTED OUR APPROACH. THEY HAVE STUCK TO THEIR ORIGINAL CONCEPT THAT THERE SHOULD BE NO REDUCTIONS WHATEVER UNTIL AFTER ALL DIRECT PARTICIPANTS HAVE MADE SPECIFIC COMMITMENTS ON BOTH THE NUMBER AND TIMING OF REDUCTIONS. AS FAR AS NATO IS CONCERNED, THE US AS A SUPERPOWER IS WILLING TO REDUCE FIRST, AND ALL THE ALLIES WANT TO SEE SUBSTANTIAL PRIOR US-SOVIET REDUCTIONS AND EASTERN AGREEMENT THAT A COMMON CEILING IN GROUND FORCE MANPOWER WILL BE THE GOAL OF THE NEGOTIATIONS BEFORE THE REMAINING WESTERN DIRECT PARTICIPANTS TAKE THE NEW AND FAR-REACHING STEP CONCLUDING AN AGREEMENT WITH THE WARSAW PACT TO REDUCE THEIR FORCES IN PHASE II. THE EAST CLAIMS IT HAS TAKEN SOME ACCOUNT OF THESE REQUIREMENTS. BUT THE LIMITED PROPOSALS WHICH IT HAS MADE DO NOT CHANGE THE ESSENTIAL EASTERN POSITION THAT THERE SHOULD BE NO REDUCTIONS WHATEVER UNTIL AFTER ALL DIRECT PARTICIPANTS HAVE MADE SPECIFIC COMMITMENTS ON BOTH THE NUMBER AND TIMING OF REDUCTIONS.

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PAGE 01 MBFR V 00502 02 OF 02 121519Z

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UNCLAS SECTION 2 OF 2 MBFR VIENNA 0502

MBFR NEGOTIATIONS

FROM US REP MBFR

9. WE ALSO MADE PROPOSALS RELATING TO OTHER ASPECTS OF OUR TWO PHASE APPROACH PREVIOUSLY, WE PROPOSED A MUTUAL COMMITMENT NOT TO INCREASE THE OVERALL LEVEL OF GROUND FORCE MANPOWER ON EACH SIDE BETWEEN THE TWO PHASES IN ORDER TO COMPLEMENT A SATISFACTORY FIRST PHASE AGREEMENT PROVIDING FOR SUBSTANTIAL US AND SOVIET WITHDRAWALS.

10. DURING THIS ROUND, WE HAVE MADE PROPOSALS WHOSE EFFECT WOULD BE TO EXTEND COVERAGE IN CONNECTION WITH POSSIBLE AGREEMENTS TO ALL GROUND AND AIR FORCE PERSONNEL IN THE AREA. WE REMAIN UNWILLING TO REDUCE OUR AIR FORCE PERSONNEL FOR VALID MILITARY REASONS HAVING TO DO WITH THE MOBILITY OF AIRCRAFT AND THE PROXIMITY OF THE SOVIET UNION TO THE REDUCTION AREA. MOREOVER, THE TOTALS OF AIR FORCE MAN-
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PAGE 02 MBFR V 00502 02 OF 02 121519Z

POWER ON BOTH SIDES ARE NEARLY EQUAL, WITH A SLIGHT SUPERIORITY ON THE SIDE OF THE WARSAW PACT. THE DISPARITY WHICH NEEDS TO BE CORRECTED IS IN GROUND FORCES. BUT IN ORDER TO FACILITATE AGREEMENT, AND TO MEET CONCERNS RAISED BY THE EAST, WE HAVE OFFERED A MUTUAL COMMITMENT NOT TO INCREASE THE OVERALL LEVEL OF AIR FORCE MANPOWER IN THE AREA OF REDUCTION IN CONNECTION WITH A FIRST PHASE AGREEMENT. THIS IMPORTANT STEP SHOULD ENABLE THE PARTICIPANTS TO CONCENTRATE ON WHAT WE CONSIDER THE MAIN REQUIREMENT OF THESE NEGOTIATIONS -- DEALING WITH THE GROUND FORCE DISPARITY -- WITHOUT CONCERNS THAT OTHER FORCES IN THE AREA WOULD BE INCREASED. SO WE NOW HAVE A COMPLETE FRAMEWORK FOR SERIOUS WORK ON REDUCTIONS LEADING TO A MORE STABLE MILITARY RELATIONSHIP IN CENTRAL EUROPE, WHICH IS THE MAIN TASK OF THESE NEGOTIATIONS.

11. WITH THE SAME AIM OF GETTING DOWN TO THE MAIN BUSINESS OF THE NEGOTIATIONS, AND OF KNOWING WHAT THE PROBLEM IS IN OBJECTIVE, QUANTIFIABLE TERMS, WE HAVE BEEN VERY FORTHCOMING TO THE EAST WITH REGARD TO DATA. WE TOOK THE INITIATIVE TO

PUT FORWARD FIGURES AT THE OUTSET FOR GROUND FORCE MANPOWER AND TANKS. THESE CLEARLY DEMONSTRATE THE LARGE DISPARITY TO WHICH I HAVE JUST REFERRED. WE HAVE DONE THIS BECAUSE, IN A COMPLICATED UNDERTAKING LIKE THIS, YOU HAVE TO HAVE AGREEMENT ON THE FACTS.

12. IN GENERAL, THOUGH THE EASTERN REPRESENTATIVES HAVE ALSO BEEN ACTIVE IN DEVELOPING IDEAS DURING THIS ROUND, THEY ALL GO IN THE DIRECTION OF ESTABLISHING LIMITATIONS OVER THE FORCES OF NATO COUNTRIES BASED ON THE PRESENT UNEQUAL FORCE RELATIONSHIP AND WITHOUT ACHIEVING MILITARILY SIGNIFICANT REDUCTIONS.

13. TO SUM UP WHERE MATTERS STAND AT PRESENT, THERE IS NO REAL PROGRESS TO REPORT AS YET. BUT THE ACTIVITY BY BOTH SIDES WHICH I HAVE DESCRIBED JUSTIFIES THE HOPE THAT WE ARE MOVING INTO A STAGE OF INCREASED MOVEMENT IN THE NEGOTIATIONS. WE REMAIN OPTIMISTIC THAT WE CAN MAKE PROGRESS.

END TEXT.RESOR

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